Listen to a student explain why she can’t come to class to practise and improve your listening skills.

**Before listening**
Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

**Preparation task**
Complete the phrases with words from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>links</th>
<th>appointment</th>
<th>know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>assignment</td>
<td>test</td>
<td>term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. a doctor’s ___________________________
2. a homework ___________________________
3. to let someone ___________________________
4. to post ___________________________ online
5. a practice ___________________________
6. a mid-________________________ exam

**Tasks**

**Task 1**
Circle the best answer.

1. Diana can’t come to class because ...
   a. she has a different class.
   b. she has a mid-term exam.
   c. she has a doctor’s appointment.

2. For homework, she has to read ...
   a. chapters 17, 18, 19 and 20.
   b. chapters 17, 19 and 20.
   c. chapters 17 and 20.
3. The articles and video are available …
   a. online.
   b. via email.
   c. in the library.

4. The deadline for the homework is …
   a. Wednesday.
   b. Friday.
   c. Sunday.

5. The teacher can give Diana the practice test …
   a. on Friday.
   b. by email.
   c. after the mid-term exam.

6. The office needs …
   a. a note from the doctor.
   b. an email from Diana.
   c. the mid-term exam.

Task 2
Put the words and phrases in order to make sentences.
1. but      sorry      to class.      I      I’m      can’t come
2. Can      me      give      the homework      you      assignment?
3. to      chapters 17      read      20.      You need      to
4. I      should      do?      What
5. links      the      post      I’ll      online.
6. the practice      you      give      I can      test.

Discussion
Do you have a lot of homework? What kind of homework do you like?
Transcript

**Student:** Excuse me, Ms Henderson?

**Teacher:** Yes, Diana. How can I help you?

**Student:** I’m sorry, but I can’t come to class next Wednesday. I have a doctor’s appointment.

**Teacher:** OK. Thanks for letting me know.

**Student:** Is there anything to do at home?

**Teacher:** Let me just check my notebook. OK, first of all ... you need to read chapters 17, 19 and 20 in the book. There are also some articles and a video to watch – those are online. I’ll post the links online in the usual place.

**Student:** Chapters 17 to 20.

**Teacher:** Yes, except chapter 18. Chapters 17, 19 and 20.

**Student:** Ah, OK. Um ... is there a deadline?

**Teacher:** Yes, this Friday. But there’s something else. I was going to give you all a practice test.

**Student:** A practice test?

**Teacher:** Yes, to help people prepare for the mid-term exam.

**Student:** Ah. All right.

**Teacher:** Don’t worry, I can send you the practice test by email on Wednesday. Can you send it to me before Friday?

**Student:** Sure, no problem.

**Teacher:** And don’t forget to bring a certificate from the doctor to the office.

**Student:** Thanks, Ms Henderson! I’ll do that.

**Teacher:** You’re welcome, Diana. Take care.
Answers

**Preparation task**
1. appointment
2. assignment
3. know
4. links
5. test
6. term

**Task 1**
1. c
2. b
3. a
4. b
5. b
6. a

**Task 2**
1. I’m sorry but I can’t come to class.
2. Can you give me the homework assignment?
3. You need to read chapters 17 to 20.
4. What should I do?
5. I’ll post the links online.
6. I can give you the practice test.